

The American people deserve a transparent and open debate over agriculture and nutrition programs, both of which are in dire need of reform, which is why the House will be considering reforms to SNAP in the coming weeks.

We have an opportunity to achieve a better and more efficient farm bill here, Madam Speaker. I look forward to working with colleagues in the House and Senate on a final package so that we can enact those commonsense reforms into law.

THE 21ST CENTURY'S GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY RACE

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, in April, the International Energy Agency concluded that despite some progress in deploying clean energy, that the average unit of energy produced in the world today is essentially polluting as it was 20 years ago.

As President Obama stated at Georgetown University last month, we cannot afford to slow-walk our transition to a lower carbon future. Climate change and its consequences are not waiting and neither can we.

The good news is the transition to a cleaner global economy presents a great economic opportunity for the United States. Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimates that private clean energy investment will more than triple by 2030. We should be fighting to attract that investment here in the United States, but we are at risk of missing out on that opportunity.

China and other countries have made firm national commitments to generate more electricity from clean energy sources, and that reality is reflected in their current levels of investment—a \$65 billion investment in China compared to \$35 billion in the United States.

Madam Speaker, we should not lose this competition, we should not jeopardize our future, and we should not jeopardize the climate. This is an opportunity for a win-win.

SUMMER OF SCANDALS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in this sizzling “Summer of Scandals,” the evidence of no accountability continues to mount.

Someone in the Federal Government commits wrongdoing. The White House denies involvement or knowledge. Blames low-level operatives or somebody else. No accountability.

Exhibit 1: Fast and Furious. The government smuggled guns into Mexico. Two Americans and hundreds of Mexicans were killed by those guns. White House blamed Bush. An employee resigned. No accountability.

Exhibit 2: Benghazi. Requests for increased security were denied both before and during the attack. Four Americans were killed. Investigation bungled. A YouTube video was blamed. An employee was placed on leave but still collects a paycheck. No accountability.

Exhibit 3: IRS admitted targeting conservative organizations. Employees in Ohio were blamed. White House denied knowledge. No accountability.

Exhibit 4: The DOJ was caught wiretapping reporters to silence a leak. White House denied involvement. No accountability.

As the “Summer of Scandals” continues, the most transparent administration in history keeps hiding information from citizens about the abuse of its government power.

And that's just the way it is.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL INDICTMENTS AGAINST SUDANESE PRESIDENT BASHIR FOR GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last week marked the third anniversary of when the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Omar al-Bashir, the sitting President of Sudan, on three counts of genocide related to Darfur. Four years ago, Bashir was indicted on two counts of war crimes and five counts of crimes against humanity.

On Sunday, Bashir traveled to Nigeria to a red-carpet welcome and full guard of honor despite demands from human rights activists that Nigeria arrest him to face trial on genocide charges.

This is an outrage, Madam Speaker.

Congressmen WOLF, CAPUANO, and I have introduced H.R. 6092, the Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act. This bill strengthens sanctions against Sudan and requires a comprehensive strategy to address the many conflicts and human rights crimes occurring in Sudan, including the international strategy to enforce the ICC arrest warrants against Bashir and other Sudanese officials.

I ask my House colleagues to join us in this effort, to cosponsor H.R. 1692, and to move it to the House floor for approval in the 113th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM FRANCIS HARTNETT, JR.

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable individual, William Francis Hartnett, Jr., who passed away on July 15. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our country.

Mr. Hartnett had a servant's heart. He served our Nation as an officer in the U.S. Navy and as a special agent for the FBI. Mr. Hartnett sat on numerous boards, including St. Francis Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Chicago Public Library, Chicago Catholic Charities, and my alma mater, La Lumiere School in La Porte, Indiana.

Mr. Hartnett also developed real estate projects across the country, including Lake Point Tower in Chicago, United Nations Plaza in New York, Williams Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Century City in Los Angeles.

Mr. Hartnett was a family man, who is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Lorraine, in addition to 4 children, 17 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

William Francis Hartnett, Jr., was a man truly committed to his family, his community, his Catholic faith, and his country. America is a better Nation because of Bill Hartnett, and I am lucky to know his family—his best achievement. He will be truly missed, Madam Speaker. Thank you and rest in peace, Mr. Hartnett.

KIDNAPPING OF FORMER MARINE ARMANDO TORRES IN MEXICO

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern for former Marine Corporal Armando Torres, who is in this photograph here. He was kidnapped by members of the Mexican cartel during a visit to Tamaulipas, Mexico, while visiting his father and uncle.

On May 14, 2013, 2 months ago, Mr. Torres crossed the Rio Grande River into Mexico and was to return the next day. Family members in Mexico report that Mr. Torres, along with his father and uncle, were forcibly taken by members of the Mexican cartel.

Corporal Torres is a combat veteran who served his country honorably in Iraq. I have asked the FBI in McAllen, Texas, and the U.S. Consulate General in Matamoros, Mexico, to help bring this marine and his relatives back safely to their loved ones.

Each agency has been working on this case every day for the past 2 months. They report the Mexican Government is cooperating with them on their efforts to find the victims of this outrageous crime.

I commend the quick action taken by both the FBI and the U.S. State Department, and I urge them to continue to do all they can to find and return our former marine, Armando Torres, back safely to the United States and to bring his relatives back home. The United States does not, and must not, give up and leave one of its own behind.

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MARINES WILL NOT LEAVE THEIR BROTHERS BEHIND

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Corporal Armando Torres, a 25-year-old marine and Iraq war vet, who finds himself in a desperate situation. More than 2 months ago, Corporal Torres was kidnapped, along with his father and uncle, from a Mexican ranch.

While the media's lack of attention has their kidnappers thinking we've just given up, my colleagues and my fellow marines in the House of Representatives have a different message: marines will not leave their brothers behind, and the U.S. should not either. We will not rest until we bring Corporal Torres home.

Now is the time to send a message to Torres' kidnappers that their actions against a U.S. citizen and a marine veteran will not be tolerated. I urge my fellow marines to join me on the House floor and to demand action for Corporal Torres and his family.

IMMIGRATION

(Ms. DUCKWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam Speaker, last month, in Addison, Illinois, I held an immigration roundtable with 38 organizations that spanned the political spectrum. Attending were the chambers of commerce, the ACLU, local colleges, and municipalities. They all told me that now is the time to act on comprehensive immigration reform.

My neighbors know that, done right, immigration reform can make our communities stronger and that it can provide opportunities for our businesses by expanding our workforce. Reform will make us safer by securing our borders. We can help balance our budget by letting millions of immigrants who are willing to make the necessary sacrifices become tax-paying American citizens. We must work together to provide a pathway to citizenship as part of any comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

The Senate has passed such a bipartisan proposal, and Members of the House should reach across the aisle and do the same. We cannot allow partisanship and extremism to stop us from making commonsense reforms that are vital to the future of this great Nation. Now is the time for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation that is practical, fair, and humane.

LET'S PUT OFF THE SUFFERING

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this evening, we had a difficult vote—not difficult for some, but for some of us, it was.

On the one hand, we had the President, who had announced he was going to do the unconstitutional even though he had pushed through ObamaCare without a single Republican vote for it, and people are beginning to realize just how devastating this is. They've lost their doctors; they've lost their insurance, and they're going to lose their insurance; people have been forced from full time to part time, and now they're seeking more part-time work to make up the difference; they're being told they're losing their benefits.

This extra whammy for American workers was going to be even more devastating if the individual mandate went through. Somebody making \$14,000 was either going to buy insurance he couldn't afford or pay extra income tax.

Some of us knew if we would just let the whole thing go through, then people would be hurt, and they would demand repeal; but I had to vote not to make people suffer. Let's put off the suffering as long as possible and then, hopefully, repeal it.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about comprehensive immigration reform, but from a slightly different standpoint from many of my colleagues who frequently occupy this Chamber with their perspectives.

Madam Speaker, we all know why we need comprehensive immigration reform, why we need to fix this system rather than depending on small, one-off solutions. Our system is broken, and we have to fix the entire immigration system now.

Our farms do not have stable workforces; our borders are not adequately protected; far too many high-tech companies are short the workers they need to continue to innovate; our schools attract the best and the brightest from around the world, but we can't keep sending them back after we educate them.

We know what needs to be fixed and why. What will happen once we fix the problems? Very simply, our economy will skyrocket.

Report after report, study after study says the same thing—the successful implementation of comprehensive immigration reform will cut the deficit, create manufacturing jobs and job opportunities nationwide, and create more than 100,000 American jobs every year for the next 10 years. We will see \$832 billion being pumped into our economy over the next 10 years. As

producers and consumers in this great Nation, undocumented immigrants grow the economic pie by at least \$30 billion as we speak. Legalization would triple that number with various studies pointing to a \$1 trillion impact on our gross domestic product right here in the United States over the next 10 years.

Madam Speaker, I am joined by many of my freshman class. This past election, voters sent us to Washington to solve problems like our broken immigration system, and that's what we want to do. It's time to make immigration reform a reality, and it's absolutely time to let people know what that reality really means for their own pocketbooks—those of both American citizens and immigrants. That's what we're going to talk about tonight.

Madam Speaker, for those watching at home, they can get in on one of the conversations by tweeting us at #CIRmeansjobs. If our constituents have questions, we will answer them.

With that, I look forward to an interesting and enlightening discussion tonight.

I would like to start off by talking with my colleague from California, Congressman SWALWELL. One thing I would like to ask this gentleman is whether he thinks comprehensive immigration reform will help not only create more job opportunities but also expand our Nation's workforce.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California, Congressman CÁRDENAS, for leading on this issue and for bringing together the freshman class on an issue that is important not just in California but across the country—the question about comprehensive immigration reform and whether it means jobs.

We know that it's the right thing to do to welcome the 11 million undocumented immigrants into our country and to put them on a pathway to citizenship. We also know that it's good for our economy, and I am happy to be here today to talk about this. Everyone agrees right now that our immigration system is broken. It must be reformed, not in a piecemeal manner, but comprehensively to meet the needs of the 21st century.

I represent a very diverse area, which includes the cities of Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Castro Valley, and San Lorenzo, California, among other cities. In those cities are some of the 11 million undocumented individuals. These are hardworking folks who come here for the same reason that our ancestors came—to make life better for themselves, their families, and their children. We should welcome that. We should embrace that they are choosing to come here to America rather than to go to other countries. It's a very good thing.

Tragically, right now, these undocumented workers are in the shadows, putting them at risk for exploitation